Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a natural gas containing hydrocarbons, between 20 and 45% by mole hydrogen sulfide, and water, wherein the following stages are carried out:

a) cooling the natural gas so as to condense water and to recover a gaseous effluent,

b) distilling the gaseous effluent obtained in stage a) so as to obtain a liquid phase and a gas phase, and cooling said gas phase to a temperature ranging from -40°C to 0°C so as to obtain a condensate and a gaseous effluent depleted in hydrogen sulfide and in water, and

c) contacting at least part of the gaseous effluent obtained in stage b) with a first physical solvent at a temperature ranging between -40°C and ~~20°C~~ 0°C so as to obtain a liquid effluent and a treated gas depleted in hydrogen sulfide.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gaseous effluent obtained in stage b) is maintained ~~at a temperature ranging from -100°C to 30°C and~~ at a pressure above 1 MPa abs.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first physical solvent is an aqueous solvent having a water content below 50 % by weight.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the following stages :

d) expanding the liquid effluent obtained in stage c) so as to obtain a hydrocarbon-depleted liquid effluent and a gaseous effluent containing hydrocarbons, and

e) contacting the gaseous effluent obtained in stage d) with a second physical solvent so as to obtain a liquid effluent containing hydrogen sulfide and a fuel containing hydrocarbons.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim4, comprising the following stage:

f) distilling in a distillation column at least one of the liquid effluents obtained in stages c), d) and e) so as to obtain a regenerated solvent at the bottom of said column.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the following stage is carried out before stage f):

g) heating at least one of the liquid effluents obtained in stages c), d) and e) so as to obtain a mixed effluent containing a liquid phase and a gas phase.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the following stage:

f) distilling in a distillation column at least the liquid effluent obtained in stage c) so as to obtain a regenerated solvent at the bottom of said column.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the following stage is carried out before stage f):

g) heating at least the liquid effluent obtained in stage c) so a to obtain a mixed effluent containing a stage liquid phase and a gas phase.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein stage c) is carried out at a temperature ranging between –30 and -10°C.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein stage c) is carried out at a pressure ranging between 0.5 to 5 MPa abs.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein stage c) is carried out at a pressure ranging between 1 to 2 MPa abs.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein stage c) is carried out at a pressure ranging between 0.5 to 5 MPa abs.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein stage c) is carried out at a pressure ranging between 1 to 2 MPa abs.